

A COMPANION VOLUME TO THE NEW BRITTON AND
BROWN ILLUSTRATED FLORA.¹

The northeastern part of North America is fortunate to have a newly prepared manual condensed from the large three volume Illustrated Flora by H. A. Gleason. The book under review was prepared by Arthur Cronquist and is based squarely on Gleason's revision of the earlier Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora, first published in three volumes in 1896, 1897 and 1898. A second Britton and Brown edition came in 1913 and the Gleason edition was published in 1952. Much of the material in the present volume goes back to the Gleason edition and in this respect it is not new. On the other hand, Cronquist has incorporated some of the results of more recent studies and has modified the descriptive matter and nomenclature accordingly.

In relation to the area covered by Gleason's Illustrated Flora this manual pertains to an area reduced in the extreme northeast to exclude the Gaspé Peninsula and in the southwest to exclude the area south of the Missouri River in the state of Missouri. Thus, the area covered is somewhat less than that accounted for by Gray's Manual, ed. 8, and an otherwise obvious direct comparison of these two manuals for their included numbers of taxa cannot readily be made. However, it is satisfying to note that the nomenclature of these two manuals is closer to being the same than in earlier editions. This offers the hope that a high degree of stability of nomenclature is in sight for the plants found in northeastern North America, at least.

Some botanists perhaps will find the treatments of such difficult genera as *Rubus* and *Crataegus* to be over simplified and unsatisfactory for identifying their plants. But I am personally glad to see that the complications introduced by hybridization, polyploidy, aneuploidy and apomixis are frankly recognized and some deference is given to the fact

¹Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada by Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist. 1i & 1-810. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., Princeton, N. J. 1963. \$11.75.

that the effects of these phenomena on the taxonomy of these two genera have not as yet been worked out. It is doubtful whether a sensible classification of *Rubus* and *Crataegus* can be produced without much more information than is now available.

I have not used this manual to identify any plants and that is the only way to test its utility to the student and the field botanist. The book has a flexible cover and is of a size that will be handy in the field. Certainly, it is an important addition to our literature on the vascular plants and the authors are to be congratulated for bringing it into published form.

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